

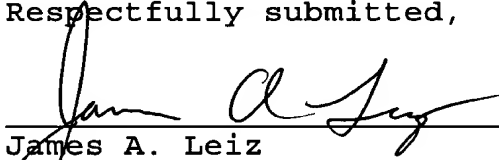
above-identified patent application in view of the following remarks.

Applicants filed a Reply to Office Action on April 14, 2002 which included the amendment of claim 40 as shown herein above.

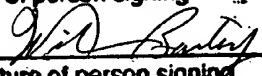
The Examiner objected to the Reply to Office Action as being non-responsive to the prior Office Action because the amendments to claim 40 were not presented in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.173(b)(1) and (2) and (d). The entire text of claim 40 has been underlined in response to the Examiner's objections.

In view of the foregoing, the amendments to claim 40 are in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.173(b)(1) and (2) and (d). Therefore, the Reply to Office Action filed April 14, 2002 is now in condition for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,


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